Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04219 242248Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-02 /081 W
----------041280 242253Z /70
O 242210Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1847
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY GABORONE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4219

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PRESENTATION OF WESTERN FIVE'S INTERIM
RESPONSE TO VORSTER LETTER OF 23 JULY

REF: STATE 186256

AT 9:30 PM JULY 24 I AND FRENCH EMBOFF CROSS ACCOMPANIED
BRITISH AMBASSADOR SCOTT IN CALL ON BRAND FOURIE TO PRESENT
"AIDE MEMOIRE," TEXT OF WHICH APPEARS IN NUMBERED PARAS 1
THROUGH 5 BELOW, WHICH SCOTT SAID THAT IVOR RICHARD HAD CLEARED
WITH NEW YORK CONTACT GROUP WITH CONCURRENCE OF CAPITALS.
SINCE TIME WAS OF ESSENCE IF WE WERE TO PERSUADE SAG TO WITHHOLD
CIRCULATION OF THE VORSTER LETTER, AND I HAD LEARNED BY
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04219 242248Z

TELEPHONE THAT REFTEL WAS PARTLY OVERTAKEN BY LATEST CG
DISCUSSIONS, I DECIDED TO ACCOMPANY SCOTT WITHOUT AWAITING
CONFIRMING INSTRUCTIONS FROM DEPARTMENT. COMMENT BY SEPTEL.

BEGIN TEXT
AIDE MEMOIRE
1. THE FOLLOWING IS OUR INTERIM RESPONSE TO MR VORSTER'S

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

MESSAGE TO OUR HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF 23 JULY.

2. SOUTH AFRICA'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE WESTERN PROPOSAL ON 25 APRIL REPRESENTED A MAJOR ADVANCE IN THE PROGRESS TOWARDS AN INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTABLE SETTLEMENT OF THE NAMIBIAN QUESTION. WE THEREFORE NOTE WITH SATISFACTION THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT STANDS BY ITS ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSAL.

3. ON THE SUBJECT OF WALVIS BAY, WE NOTE WITH CONCERN THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE DISCUSSIONS OVER THE PAST SIXTEEN MONTHS DOES NOT ACCORD IN SOME RESPECTS WITH THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN YOUR LETTER OF 23 JULY. WE SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT WALVIS BAY IS A SEPARATE ISSUE FROM THE PROPOSAL OF THE FIVE FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE IN NAMIBIA. FROM THE OUTSET, WE HAVE RECOGNISED THAT IT IS AN ISSUE WHICH COULD NOT BE RESOLVED IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR PROPOSAL. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, POINTED OUT TO YOU THAT THE ISSUE WOULD INEVITABLY ARISE, AND IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT IT REMAINED OPEN TO US TO EXPRESS OUR POLITICAL VIEW ON THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY.

4. THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION OF WHICH WE HAVE INFORMED YOU THROUGH OUR REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK IS NOT A PART OF OUR PROPOSAL. AT OUR INSISTENCE, THE TEXT DOES NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE LEGAL QUESTION, AND IN NO WAY PREJUDICES THE SOUTH AFRICAN LEGAL POSITION. THE REFERENCE TO "STEPS CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 PRETOR 04219 242248Z

NECESSARY" IN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH 2, IN OUR OPINION, MEANS NEGOTIATION. THERE IS NO COERCIVE LANGUAGE IN THE RESOLUTION. FURTHERMORE, THE TREATMENT OF WALVIS BAY IS IN A FUTURE CONTEXT, AND THERE IS NO TIMETABLE. THE RESOLUTION IMPLIES THAT WALVIS BAY IS NOT AT PRESENT PART OF NAMIBIA AND WILL REMAIN IN THIS CONDITION UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

5. IN THE LIGHT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE EXPLANATION OF VOTE WHICH OUR REPRESENTATIVES WILL MAKE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL FULLY ALLAY YOUR CONCERNS. WE THEREFORE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT YOU CAN AGREE NOT TO GO AHEAD AND PUBLISH YOUR MESSAGE. IT IS OUR POSITION THAT THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY CAN ONLY BE DETERMINED IN DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN YOUR GOVERNMENT AND THE GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA. OUR FIVE GOVERNMENTS WILL MAKE IT CLEAR IN THE STATEMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL, AND BY OUR ACTIONS IN PURSUANCE OF THE RESOLUTION, THAT THE ONLY WAY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE IS THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. THUS, THERE IS NO CONTRADICTION BETWEEN THE PRINCIPLES ENUNCIATED IN THE LETTER FROM OUR FIVE HEADS OF STATE OR OF GOVERNMENT AND THE WALVIS BAY RESOLUTION.

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PRETORIA,
24 JULY 1978
END TEXT
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, AIDE MEMOIRE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PRETOR04219
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780303-1109
Format: TEL
From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780727/aaaaawrj.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4a2ff96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 186256
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1907229
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: PRESENTATION OF WESTERN FIVE\'S INTERIM RESPONSE TO VORSTER LETTER OF 23 JULY
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4a2ff96d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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US Department of State
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20 Mar 2014
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